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*A Social Study of the Russian German.* (University Studies.)

By HATTIE PLUM WILLIAMS. Lincoln, Neb., 1916. Pp. 101.

This is an excellent and exact study of what might be called the double-hyphen immigrant. Germans who have lived a hundred and fifty years in the Volga district of Russia, entirely cut off from any connection with the German Empire, now for part of a generation have constituted one-eighth of the population of Lincoln. In Russia their church preserved their identity. The question before us is whether their uniqueness will long continue. A large amount of well-balanced material has been collected displaying customs, vital and social statistics, and tendencies. The thoroughness with which it has been done makes one hope for its extension to include the Russian German from other regions, as for example that about Odessa, which was settled at the same time. One cannot help being somewhat disappointed because the study is essentially objective. Familiar as the author is with the people themselves, the reader does not get inside them so as to see their psychological life. One should not expect more than is possible, but it would be very helpful if we could find just what has been the influence of the Russian environment during these hundred and fifty years, and this might be profitably compared with the relatively isolated communities of Pennsylvania "Dutch" who represent a similar period and condition.

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*A Layman's Handbook of Medicine. With Special Reference to Social Workers.* By RICHARD C. CABOT, M.D. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. Pp. xviii+524. \$2.00.

This "layman's handbook" will prove both a delight and a torment to laymen and social workers—a delight because of its sanity of tone and a torment because of its scarcity of specific rules. The author has only one evident fad and that is a wholesome skepticism regarding all fads. This spirit of scientific doubt characterizes the book throughout. The author refuses to commit himself to either camp in controverted questions, whether it be as to the harmfulness of tobacco or as to the causes of rheumatism. The intelligent reader will be very grateful for this quality, though he will be surprised to find a physician of such distinction so frequently telling the benighted layman that as a matter of fact the doctors themselves are in almost complete ignorance about so many